



# NATIONAL BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS

200 W. Baltimore Street • Baltimore, MD 21201 • Nancy S. Grasmick, State Superintendent of Schools

*Revised May 2001*

## ***What is the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards?***

The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) is an independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization governed by a 63-member Board of Directors comprised primarily of classroom teachers. Its purpose is to improve student learning in America's schools by developing a system of advanced, voluntary certification for elementary, middle, and high school teachers. The National Board is establishing rigorous standards and assessments for what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do.

## ***What is National Board Certification?***

National Board Certification is acknowledgment that a teacher is highly accomplished, having met challenging professional teaching standards as evidenced by performance-based assessments. At the present time, there are nearly 10,000 teachers nationwide who have achieved National Board Certification. Completion of the process is recognized as a valuable professional development experience.

## ***Who is eligible?***

At the time of application, a candidate must hold a baccalaureate degree, have taught successfully for a minimum of three years, and have held a valid professional state teaching certificate for those three years, or, where a certificate is not required, taught in schools recognized and approved to operate by the State.

## ***What are the National Board Certification areas?***

Currently, certification is being offered in the following areas:

- Early Childhood/Generalist (ages 3-8)
- Middle Childhood/Generalist (ages 7-12)
- Early Adolescence/Generalist (ages 11-15)
- Early Adolescence/English Language Arts (ages 11-15)
- Early Adolescence/Mathematics (ages 11-15)
- Early Adolescence/Social Studies-History (ages 11-15)
- Early Adolescence/Science (ages 11-15)
- Adolescence and Young Adulthood/English Language Arts (ages 14-18+)
- Adolescence and Young Adulthood/Mathematics (ages 14-18+)
- Adolescence and Young Adulthood/Social Studies-History (ages 14-18+)
- Adolescence and Young Adulthood/Science (ages 14-18+)
- Early Childhood and Middle Childhood/Art (ages 3-12)
- Early Childhood and Middle Childhood/Music (ages 3-12)
- Early Childhood and Middle Childhood/Physical Education (ages 3-12)
- Early Childhood and Middle Childhood/World Languages Other than English (ages 3-12)

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***What are the  
National Board  
Certification areas?  
(continued)***

Early Childhood and Middle Childhood/English as a New Language (ages 3-12)  
Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood/Art (ages 11-18+)  
Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood/Music (ages 11-18+)  
Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood/Physical Education (ages 11-18+)  
Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood/English as a New Language (ages 11-18+)  
Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood/World Languages Other than English (ages 11-18+)  
Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood/Career and Technical Education (ages 11-18+)  
Early Childhood through Young Adulthood/Exceptional Needs Specialist (ages birth-18+)  
Early Childhood through Young Adulthood/Library Media (ages 3-18+)

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***What is the assessment  
process for National  
Board Certification?***

The assessment process is two-tiered and consists of compiling a student-centered portfolio and completing assessment center exercises. Candidates submit four portfolio entries. Three of the entries are classroom-based and include two videos that document the candidate's teaching practice through student work. The fourth entry documents the candidate's work with students' families and community, and collaboration with the professional community. Analytical and reflective commentary accompanies all documentation.

The Assessment Center consists of six 30-minute prompts that require candidates to demonstrate their knowledge of subject matter content. These written assessments focus on teaching and content knowledge. Maryland Assessment Centers are located in Baltimore, Bethesda, College Park, Columbia, Lanham, Pikesville, Salisbury, and Towson.

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***What does National  
Certification Cost?***

The current assessment fee is \$2,300. Other expenses may include copying costs, videotapes, tape duplication, and postage.

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***What is Maryland doing  
to help teachers with  
National Board  
Certification?***

In 1999, the Maryland General Assembly established a permanent program of state and local aid to pay the fee for public school teachers seeking National Board Certification. Legislation enacted in 2001 increased the number of teachers for which funding is available from 300 to 500. In addition, MSDE, in collaboration with colleges/universities, business, and teachers' associations, sponsors the Maryland National Board Candidate Support Network. Candidates voluntarily attend monthly meetings on designated Saturdays at specified locations throughout the state. Maryland's National Board Certified Teachers facilitate the meetings. Through this network, candidates receive technical, intellectual, logistical and emotional support as they progress through the assessment process. Local school systems have identified a contact person for their respective school system.

For more information, call the Division of Certification and Accreditation at 410-767-0406, the public information line at 410-767-0600 (Baltimore area) or 1-888-246-0016 (toll free), or visit our website at [www.msde.state.md.us](http://www.msde.state.md.us)

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